

NOMINATION

2002 FRANCIS RAYMOND AWARD

December 15, 2001

NOMINEE:

JOHN NICOLES

732 Santa Ray
Oakland CA 94610
510/ 834-8953

NOMINATED BY:

Don Gasser
4071 Old Sonoma Road
Napa CA 94559
Office: 707/ 648-5753
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INTRODUCTION

The following is offered in support of the nomination of John Nicoles for the Francis Raymond Award for 2002. John Nicoles' steadfast devotion to forestry education is detailed in the letters, pictures, and testimonials that follow. A glance through these materials should serve as examples of the thousands of lives that John's activities have touched. The letters and pictures bear witness to the efforts that John has fostered for longer than a decade.

John's activities have been purely voluntary. John retired from the East Bay Regional Park District in 1992, and he has spent much of his time as a volunteer attempting to bring forestry education into new realms. He has had no support from company or agency. John's efforts have been motivated by a desire to convey the essence of forestry, to enlighten people about forests, and to set the record straight.

Several of the herein detailed endeavors would qualify John for this honor based on a single activity alone. In the last decade, John has spent over a full year in volunteering on the sites of Forest Conservation Days and Forestry Institute for Teachers.

John is highly creative in capturing and informing an audience, often donning bizarre clothing and assuming other persona to convey his material. You will note numerous references to odd names and obscure persons, all developed by John to make forestry enjoyable and to make sure the audience remembers the material.

Several of the activities detail John's willingness to step in where other might fear to tread. Some activity for Talk About Trees, and all of the involvement with the Alameda Waste Management Authority occurred because John saw misperceptions that needed correction.

The information contained herein includes some of John's major volunteer activities, but much is left out or glossed over. Not even referenced are his services to the Society of American Foresters as Chair, or to the California Alumni Foresters as President, or the days that John spends annually supporting forestry at the State Fair Exhibit.

While the body of this nomination conveys the important facts, see also the Appendix, which includes supporting material.

This recommendation is happily given and proudly forwarded to you on behalf of John Nicoles, who clearly deserves the recognition of this award.



Donald P. Gasser
December 15, 2001

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Those who have been recognized for starting the programs of Forest Conservation Days and Forestry Institute for Teachers give recommendations for John, who continues to carry on these programs. Bullwhacker's Jubilee, begun by John Nicoles in 1984, is recognized as the catalyst for the development of Forest Conservation Days in 1992.

October 31,2001

California Board of Forestry
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244

Re: Francis H. Raymond Award

This note is to express my strong support for the nomination of John Nicoles as a recipient of the Francis H. Raymond Award.

The Raymond Award recognizes organizations and individuals that have "contributed the most to the management and increased awareness of California's forest resources in the past 5 years". John clearly meets this criteria. He has been a strong advocate of engaging the public with active, hands on resource management and natural resources conservation education.

Recognizing the urban public's lack of appreciation for the reality of resource management in California, John single handedly created the now famous Bullwacker's Jubilee. This innovative program, held in Oakland at East Bay Regional Park, attracted resource professionals from all over the state to engage students and the general public for a two day educational event. The Jubilee was so successful that it served as the template/catalyst for creation of the Forest Conservation Days education program which continues to this day in Santa Clara county.

John is a person who leads by example. Understanding the value of interactive, hands on demonstration to attract public interest, John set out to rebuild a vintage 1882 Dolbeer steam donkey. As project leader, John managed a complete rebuild of a steam donkey that had been stored for years in relative disrepair at Cal Expo. Thanks to John's focused efforts the donkey now meets state and federal safety standards for steam powered operation. Not satisfied with just rebuilding the donkey, John trained a cadre of "donkey punchers" that operate the donkey at a variety of public education events. At many of these annual events, the donkey attracts the public's attention and allows John the opportunity to engage them in discussions regarding resource management issues.

John is very creative in attempts to successfully attract a crowd and actively engage them. He has in fact assumed a number of creative roles in the pursuit of public education:

- As Dr. Forestry, he addressed any and all forestry related questions that San Jose area students participating at Forest Conservation Days might ask. Dressed in a white lab coat and smokey bear hat John provided a humorous, yet educational experience.


- As Stud Man, John works the crowd at the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) to discuss 2X4 boards and what it takes to manufacture lumber to specific grade specifications. Dressed in cape, mask, boots, etc. he dares the educators to ask questions and discuss what it really takes to make a board.

- As Professor Felix Ferddrek, John performs master of ceremony duties for the presentation of graduate certificates at the close of FIT. Dressed in robe and mortar board hat, John delivers a graduation ceremony the teachers will never forget.

It is clear that John Nicoles is on a mission to inform California's citizenry on the benefits of sound, sustainable forest management. John is unique in that he backs up the rhetoric with pro-active leadership and a roll up your sleeves, lets get something done attitude. His approach is both refreshing and creative.

Our profession could use more pro-active leaders such as John.

Sincerely,


Tad Mason
RPF #2156

October 4, 2001

California Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

2002 Francis H. Raymond Award

This letter is in support of the nomination of John T. Nicoles for the 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to forestry and forestry education in California over the last 5 years.

I have known and worked with John since 1991. Our work together has revolved around public education about forestry in California. Since 1992, John has participated in every day of the Forest Conservation Days (FCD) program at Sanborn Park, Saratoga, California. FCD brings 3,500 inner city San Jose 5th grade students to this regional park for 4 hours of hiking and forestry displays. The most popular display is that of the 19th century Dolbeer steam donkey, which John has explained and demonstrated to the 30,000 students, teachers, and parents who have participated in FCD over the past 10 years. He probably makes 20 presentations every day of the 12 day program, in costume with "tin pants" of oiled canvas and in character as a crusty curmudgeon that 5th graders and their teachers are unlikely to encounter today. This steam donkey and John have come to symbolize FCD, a blend of forest history, forest science, forest management, so much that their image graces the Certificate of Appreciation for FCD volunteers (copy enclosed). John's participation is in no way subsidized. He pays for his transportation, lodging, meals, everything during FCD. This is truly service above and beyond the call. We have difficulty getting other volunteers to participate for but one day.

Similarly, John has been a mainstay of the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT). Since 1993, twenty five sessions have been conducted and John has participated in 24. In 1997, FIT received the first Gene Cartledge Environmental Education Award from The Conservation Fund and Union Camp Corporation. It has received a \$30,000 award from the US Forest Service "Million for the Millennium" environmental education program. And John has been an essential part of the success of FIT. He packages and delivers serious messages about forestry in often humorous and always memorable ways, from Stud Man (as in lumber stud) to Doktor Professor Pfelix Pferddreck. He brings non-academic realities and common sense to the program. In participating in all three sessions, John brings some continuity and consistency to the sessions, coastal forest issues to the interior and vice versa (sessions are held at Camp Latieze, Shasta county, Humboldt State Univ, Humboldt county, and UC Forestry Camp, Plumas county).

In summary, John has been essential to the continuing success of public education programs like FCD and FIT. His work has gone largely unnoticed by all but those involved in these programs. The Raymond Award would be fitting and just recognition of his volunteer efforts. Thank you for your time and consideration of my recommendations.

Sincerely,



Gary Nakamura

530 224-4902, gmnakamura@ucdavis.edu

Society of American Foresters

Letter from John Helms, Professor Emeritus, University of California at Berkeley

A spokesperson for the primary forestry professional society in the nation recognizes John Nicoles as an important purveyor of forestry information and education.



COLLEGE OF NATURAL RESOURCES
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DIVISION OF FOREST SCIENCE
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BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720-3114
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FAX (510) 642-6632

June 19, 2001

California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Re: 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award

I am very pleased to enthusiastically support the nomination of John T. Nicoles for the 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award, which is given to the individual(s), organization, agency or company who has contributed most to the management and increased awareness of California's forested resources over the past five years.

In considering individuals who might be worthy of the Raymond Award the name of John Nicoles must surely rank among the top few. I know of no other individual who has done more, or has given more unstintingly of his private time, for the betterment of forest management and the profession. For over a decade, wherever there has been a California forestry issue or a need for a volunteer, John has been actively involved and frequently the leader. Because of his personal efforts, forest management, policy, and communications in California have all improved.

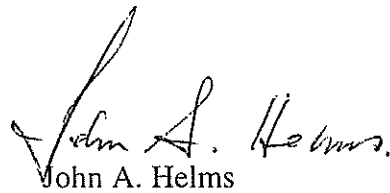
Since his retirement from the East Bay Regional Parks District in 1992, John has essentially worked full time as a volunteer for the betterment of the profession. Most notably, he was elected by his peers to be President of the California Alumni Foresters in 1994. In this position, he worked selflessly in trying to retain the forestry programs at the University of California during that time of campus reorganization. In 1999 John was elected Chair of Northern California Society of American Foresters. This was a period when the NorCal Society was initiating programs of active involvement in media relationships and outreach programs.

But perhaps John's most effective involvement has been in three volunteer programs:

1. Forestry Conservation Days: Since its inception in 1992, John has spent two weeks, annually, running the steam donkey and enthralling 5th grade students and their teachers with its operation. He recognized the potential of the steam donkey as an attention-getting device, helped arrange for the restoration of its boiler, and learned how to operate it. While explaining to students how the machine works and the role it played in the forest, he inserts the powerful message of the legitimate role of logging in forest management and forest conservation. Over the 9-year period he has given this message to about 30,000 students! What tremendous outreach!

2. Forestry Institute for Teachers: Since its inception in 1993, John has participated, every year, for a total of 22 week-long sessions. Each session enrolls about 35 teachers, so John has had direct involvement with about 770 teachers and helped them develop teaching units that explain forest ecology, management and utilization. Each teacher has responsibilities for teaching classes of some 30 students annually. The potential impact of the FIT program in developing a public having a more balanced understanding of forest management and conservation is therefore enormous. John has recognized this potential for reaching California's children and has gladly contributed time, energy, and knowledge.
3. Lair of the Bear: In 1994, while President of the Cal. Alumni Foresters, John recognized the opportunity to make UC Alumni and families aware of forest management. He initiated a program of interpretive tours for campers at the Lair of the Bear at Pinecrest. In addition, recognizing both the deteriorated state of the camp through human impact and the opportunity this provided for making campers aware of forest ecology and management, John initiated an annual program of splitting cedar rails. These are then used to control human use of the area, which then reduces erosion and permits the natural regeneration of trees, shrubs and ground cover. John recognized that involving professional forestry volunteers at the Lair in these programs would potentially enable the forestry message to reach the startling number of 10,000 campers that use the Lair annually – a truly huge audience.

It is difficult to estimate the overall effect that John has had on California forestry. But, certainly, there is no one else in the state who has given so much of their personal time and energy to enhance the public's understanding of the profession. It is highly appropriate that the Francis H. Raymond Award for 2002 be awarded to John T. Nicoles in recognition of his enormous contributions and the passion and commitment he brings to the advocacy of forestry in California.



John A. Helms

Professor Emeritus of Forestry
SAF Council Member for District III

Forest Conservation Days

Letter from Mike Bacon

Letter from John Stewart

Letter from Jay Francis

Letter from Don & Diane Dupleth

Letter from Doug & Maggie Smith

Letter from Tom Catchpole

Pictures from Forest Conservation Days

Those who annually put the two-week program together near Saratoga recognize John Nicoles for his continuous and dedicated activities. See also Appendix for Certificate of Merit featuring John and the steam donkey, letters from students, and a BLM website feature on Forest Conservation Days.

County of Santa Clara

Environmental Resources Agency
Parks and Recreation Department

298 Garden Hill Drive
Los Gatos, California 95032-7669
(408) 358-3741 FAX 358-3245
Reservations (408) 358-3751 TDD (408) 356-7146
www.parkhere.org



November 12, 2001

California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection
P. O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

Subject: 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award
Nomination: John T. Nicoles

It's my honor to write this letter of nomination of John T. Nicoles for the 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award.

For the past nine years, I have been facilitating the Santa Clara County Parks and Recreation Department portion of Forest Conservation Days at Sanborn County Park. This event is the largest environmental education/interpretive program hosted by the department with over 36,000 participants attending over 12 consecutive days. In all of this time, John has never missed a day of the event. He always shows great pride in his duties being the first to arrive and the last to leave. He is determined to provide the absolute best for the event and that all things are performed in a safe and proper manner.

John has been one of the pillars of Forest Conservation Days at Sanborn Park, showing the same great leadership abilities as some of the past recipients of this award. He not only has shown his ability to lead but also a willingness to give a guiding hand to others so they can be successful leaders. I believe John Nicoles would be an honorable recipient of the Francis H. Raymond Award.

Thank you,
Michael P. Bacon
Park Ranger P-38



Board of Supervisors: Donald F. Gage, Blanca Alvarado, Peter McHugh, James T. Beall Jr., Liz Kniss
County Executive: Richard Wittenberg

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Washington, D.C. 20240

In Reply Refer To:
8600 (230)

California State Board of Forestry
c/o Mr. Donald Gasser
4071 Old Sonoma Road
Napa, CA 94559

November 21, 2001

Thank you for your letter. It is with great pleasure that I provide some supporting information for Mr. John T. Nicoles successful nomination for the 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award.

I first met Mr. John Nicoles in about 1977 as a undergraduate student at U.C. Berkeley. I was taking a graduate course in Forest Engineering and John gave us a presentation on eucalyptus mortality in the Oakland Hills. He showed us a portion of the East Bay Park District where there had been a small logging operation to reduce the fuel hazards. John offered this site as a demonstration area to test the practical application of yarding systems. This was the first of many times I would run across John offering to share his wide breadth of forestry experience to others.

It was not until ten years later that I really got to know John and experience his deep commitment to his profession and to sharing his love of forestry with others. This familiarization began with the final preparations for the first Forest Conservation Days at West Valley College and Villa Montalvo Park in Saratoga, California. I was the Society of American Foresters Bay Area Chapter Chairman at the time and helped to coordinate and recruit volunteers.

At the first day of the highly successful environmental education program of Forest Conservation Days, John blew in and quickly set up a "Dr. Forestry" exhibit, and then began to help organize others. Dressed in a white smock and with the requisite mirror mounted on his forehead, he proceeded to answer any question the students, teachers or the public threw at him. I was impressed, not only by his complete command of flora, fauna and forest ecology, but by his tremendous rapport with folks and how easily he could convey complex concepts to his enraptured audience.

The following year, Forest Conservation Days was moved to Sanborn park in Saratoga, where the facilities were better able to handle the large crowd. I arrived the day before and found John helping to set up the UC Berkeley sawmill operation. He had already set up the Steam Donkey exhibit. It wasn't until years later that I realized the effort that this "simple" task took. John, as well as the other volunteers, began to set up the tents and exhibits. It is an amazing thing to see people just pull together and create an outstanding educational forum from their collective energy!

As was the custom, it rained several days during the next twelve day flurry of activity. In fact, one year we had rain for ten of the twelve days, but that didn't deter John and the others. John just puts on his hardhat and acts as though it isn't raining! At least twice a day I bring a group of children to the Steam Donkey to hear John's amazing story of the history of the Steam Donkey and the logging industry. The treat is the children get to learn the mechanics behind the big, dirty and noisy machine. John challenges them to "test their theory" of how the Donkey works and engage in a practical scientific test. The children mostly want to play "tug-of-war", but the Curmudgeon (our affectionate name for the poor guy who has to run this nasty piece of equipment) won't hear of that! He has them use the principles of friction and the physics to drag coefficient to learn something while they are having fun! He pays very careful attention to the children's safety and demands their complete attention to prevent serious injury or death.

As mentioned earlier, there is a tremendous amount of preparation John made to arrange for the Steam Donkey. Starting months in advance he calls the Turtle Bat Museum and arranges to borrow the Donkey. Then he arranged for free transportation from a generous transport company. When the Donkey arrives (several days early), John greets the transport and off-loads the Donkey (the loader and skidder are also donated for the two week event). John then must assemble the Donkey, clean and provide the necessary maintenance to bring it into operating condition. John then goes about cutting, hauling and splitting the firewood needed to run the Donkey.


Every morning that Forest Conservation Days is operating, John must arise around 5 AM to build the fire to provide the steam for the Donkey, fill the boiler with water and test the valves. Around 7 AM he returns to polish the train whistles and install them on the Donkey. By the time the children arrive he has spent over two hours preparing!

After all the fun of Conservation Days is over, John must tear down temporary shelter and begin dismantling the Donkey. On one occasion I helped John to clean the boiler and the tubes. He first cleans out the hot coals, then as the tank cools he drains the hot water. Then the hard part begins. After removing the top, he stand on top of the boiler and brushes the boiler tubes with the longest "bottle-brush- shaped tools you have ever seen! Talk about hot and dirty work! After this unpleasant task, he removes all the moving parts, greases and tightens them and rebuilds the Donkey. Finally, the transport shows up and John loads it back onto it's sleigh for the long ride home. All the other volunteers have left hours or days earlier.

John's dedication to his profession, and especially to Forest Conservation days, is impressive and until now unsung. He is as deserving as any I've known to receive the Francis H. Raymond Award.

Please feel free to call me at (202) 452-7759 if I can provide any additional insights into Mr. Nicoles qualifications.

Sincerely,



John C. Stewart
Forester



Collins Pine Company

State Board of Forestry & Fire Protection
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

October 15, 2001

I am writing this letter of support for the nomination of John Nicoles for the 2002 Francis Raymond Award. I have had the pleasure of knowing John for the past eight years.

Most of my experience with John has come each March in Saratoga, CA when we gather at the annual Forest Conservation Days. This event brings fifth and sixth grade schoolchildren from their urban environment and exposes them to many of the different disciplines of natural science. This is a great experience but it is sometimes difficult to gather enough volunteers to staff all of the stops. Many resource professionals can only afford to spend a day or two of their busy schedules at this event. However, John dedicates a full two weeks of his time to manning the steam donkey exhibit. During this time, John literally talks to hundreds of kids each day giving them a hands-on experience of how early logging methods were employed.

John always makes a great connection with these young people and his presentations are often the highlight of the day for many of them. His patience, tempered with respectful firmness, allows the kids to learn about physics and mechanical engineering as well. I am certain that most people would not be able to survive the rigors of this assignment for more than a day or two, much less two weeks! Yet, John continues to return to this thankless job each March, often camping out in his small trailer for the full period.

Why does he do this? John Nicoles is committed to teaching people of all ages the benefits and necessities of proper forest management. It is something he truly believes in and is willing to sacrifice his time and energy for. His dedication and faithfulness are inspiring to all of us. John truly is deserving of this prestigious award.

Sincerely,

Jay C. Francis
Forest Manager
Collins Pine Company

October 15, 2001

Diane Savin-Dukleth &
Don Dukleth
FCD Coordinators
34128 Shaver Springs Road
Auberry, CA 93602
(559) 841-3309
duckman@psnw.com

Dear Francis Raymond Award Selection Committee:

I was elated to hear that John Nicoles was nominated for the Francis Raymond Award. I can't think of a more deserving person than John. He has been a highly active and dedicated member of the Society of American Foresters for years. He helps to write position statements for the Society as well as bringing topics of concern to our attention. He has been NorCal chairperson and active in the executive committee of NorCal SAF for the nine years I have known him. He is a retired schoolteacher, although retired from teaching, it is obviously his passion, the world and anyone with an open ear his classroom. John attends numerous events using his personal finances and always strives to improve each event.

He takes time out of his busy life to help teach at the Forestry Institute for Teachers, three weeks a year. Also John is a key and inspirational component in the Forest Conservation Days (FCD) and has been for all eleven years of the event, scarcely missing a day. He operates the Steam Donkey, makes sure it arrives in one piece and leaves that same way. He is always willing to take the time to teach other people how to operate the donkey. He has researched the history of steam engines and has knowledge of past uses of the steam donkey that we use at FCD every year. He stays the full two weeks, never taking a day off, and stays in good spirits. He is instrumental in the great success of FCD, without his help we would be lost.

He always has an amusing story to tell with a humorous antidote. He is always willing to lend a helping hand. He is full of ideas and doesn't mind sharing them, making him a great asset to run ideas past. His exceptional personality makes him easy to work with, spurring him to go that extra mile and beyond. If we could answer any specific questions about John it would be a pleasure to be contacted.

Diane Savin-Dukleth
Diane Savin-Dukleth
FCD Coordinator

Don Dukleth
Don Dukleth
FCD Coordinator

P.O. Box 8152
Truckee, CA 96162
September 19, 2001

To: California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection

From: Douglas S. Smith

Subject: Enthusiastic support for the nomination of John Nicoles
for the Francis Raymond Award.

John Nicoles is a peoples' forester. My support for his nomination to the Francis Raymond Award is taken from observations over the past eight years at Conservation Days held in March at the Sanborn County Park near Saratoga. This event, sponsored in part by the Northern California Society of American Foresters, provides a field trip over a two week period for all of the fifth graders in schools from the San Jose School System.

The number of professional and other volunteers who staff this event approaches one hundred. The event is held rain or shine and involves students, teachers and parents. A key part of Conservation Days, and a big hit with old and young alike is the Dolbeer Steam Donkey, which is a historical logging relic (artifact), used to haul logs in the 1890s and beyond. John Nicoles is the narrator at the steam donkey and he does a spellbinding professional job of explaining the steam donkey's historical role in the early history of logging. During his presentation he demands strict attention from his young audience, which he gets! In this sense he has teaching courtesy, good citizenship, and a valuable lesson in the early history of California. Letters of appreciation from students and teachers alike attest to the value of the presentation by John Nicoles.

John has also overseen the rebuilding of the steam donkey, as well as its upkeep over the years. He keeps the steam pressure up all during the presentations and issues a challenge to each participating group to pull on a rope wrapped around the capstain to test the strength of the steam donkey against the students. To my knowledge the donkey pulls the students every time but once, where John confesses wet wood and rainy weather lowered the steam pressure to the point where the power of the donkey could not pull the students on the other end of the rope.

Page 2: John Nicoles nomination for the Francis Raymond Award

John has also been a key player in the Forestry Institute for Teachers at every one of its sessions. In talking with teachers who have taken this course, which is a week long and staffed by professional foresters, they speak highly of the value they have obtained from this course.

John has provided excellent leadership in his role as NORCAL Chair for the Society of American Foresters. He has a good capacity for getting others to volunteer for worthy forestry efforts.

John Nicoles is deserving of the Francis Raymond Award for his dedication to professional forestry, excellent communication skills, and a solid knowledge of California natural resources history.

Douglas S. Smith
RFF # 2372

P. O. BOX 105
PRATHER, CA
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November 12, 2001
(559) 855-2194

California State Board of Forestry
and Fire Protection.
P. O. Box 944246
Sacramento,
CA 94244 - 2460

To The Board of Forestry;

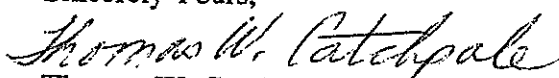
I would like support the nomination of John T. Nicoles, Forester, for the 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award. I have worked with John for over 10 years through Society of American Foresters, Education Committee activities such as the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) and Forest Conservation Days (FCD's). John is very well read and has a lot of knowledge to share with people. He uses unique methods of educating people, such as being very serious and knowledgeable to give a serious presentation to students and teachers about Natural Renewable Resource Management from a scientific, historical, factual and often political view point.

One of John's hobbies is to study and actually run steam powered machines. He has great knowledge about steam powered trains and machines. John was influential in getting the old Steam Donkey yarder that originally came from the Sequoia National Forest's Hume Lake Ranger District in working order. Another role John performs is using the Steam Donkey to teach science, math and sound forestry practices to students of all ages at several events annually. Dressed in his tin pants, playing the role of a Steam Donkey "Curmudgeon" operator from the 1890's, John turns this mighty machine into a teaching tool. As a final test he has the students try pulling on a rope pulled by the Donkey's capstan. He always reminds the students that this is not 'tug of war', but they are testing the machine to see if it works.

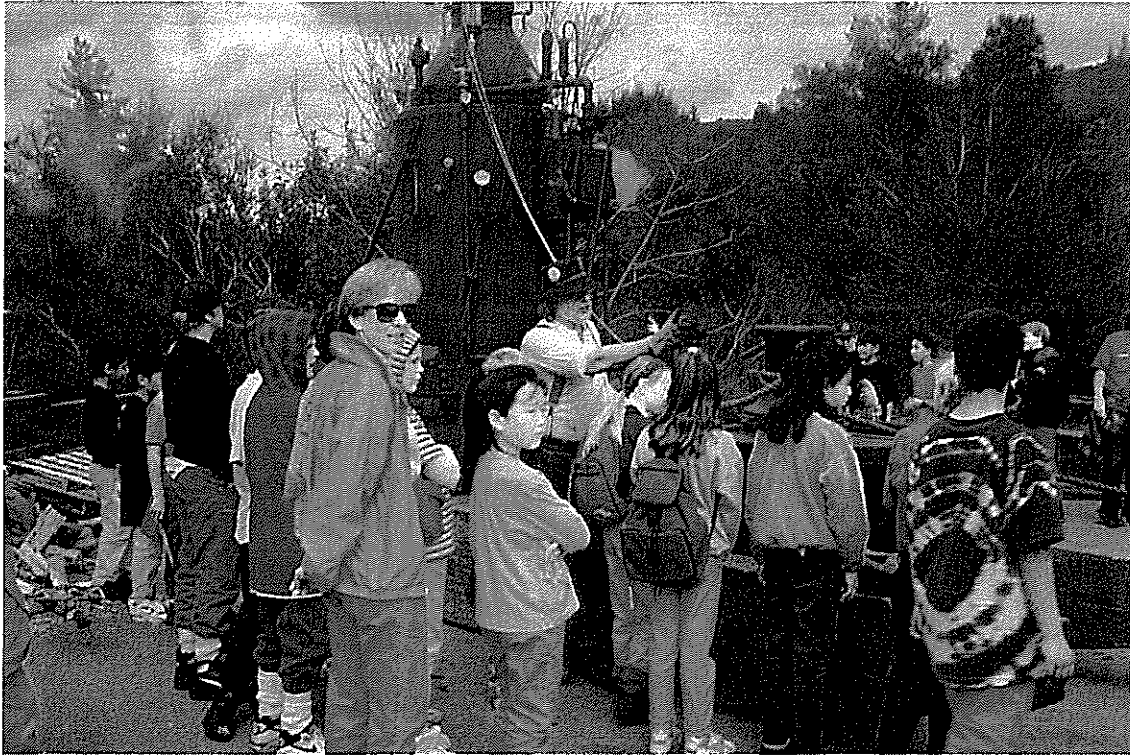
At FIT John makes wood product classroom boxes available to each teacher to use as another teaching tool. He also transforms into several different characters that he plays to teach the teachers about wood products and management. "Studman" drops by at the end of the week to explain the "Stud Grams" that have appeared next to a display of different 2 X 4 studs used in construction. Using this character and the wood samples he teaches about wood quality, conservation, sources of the wood and management ideas. Along with other duties as FIT Staff, he impersonates a visiting absent minded professor from Switzerland delivering the Key Note speech at the Graduation Ceremony at the end of FIT. He comes dressed in graduation gown, loggers boots and the mortar board foot hard hat with air freshener tassel, he is always a hit.

John's unique sense of humor, his enthusiasm, knowledge and different presentation skills have helped increase the awareness of thousands of students and teachers about proper renewable natural resource management. I believe he meets the criteria for the Francis H. Raymond Award for the year 2002.

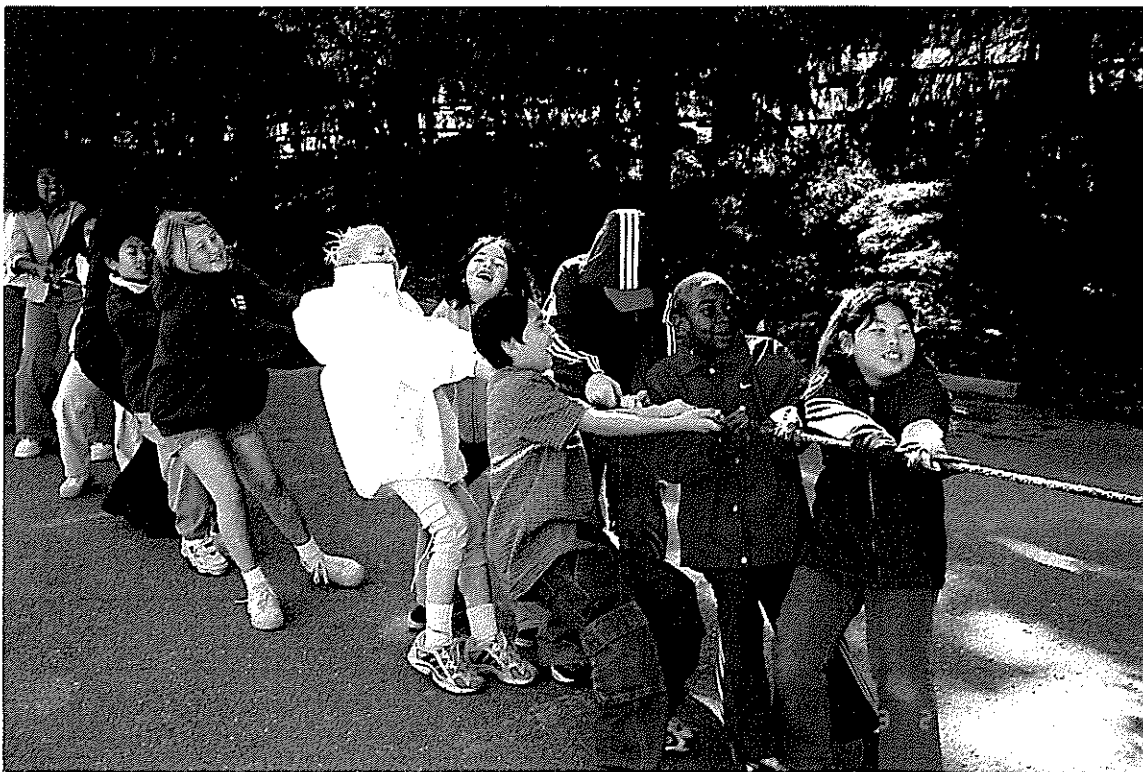
Sincerely Yours,



Thomas W. Catchpole, USFS Forester,
Education Chair for the High Sierra Chapter, SAF



John Nicoles at the Steam Donkey at Forest Conservation Days, 1993.



Kids losing the 'Tug of War' with the Steam Donkey

Forest Institute for Teachers

Letter from Mike De Lasaux

Letter from Marianne Chang

Letter from Dante Meyer

Pictures from Forestry Institute for Teachers

The instructors as well as the teachers for whom this program was developed recognize John's activities as providing depth, breadth, and good humor to this important week of forestry education.



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA COOPERATIVE EXTENSION

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November 2, 2001

Francis Raymond Award
Board of Forestry
P.O. Box 944246
Sacramento, CA 94244-2460

To Whom It May Concern:

The intent of this letter is to express support for the nomination of Mr. John Nicoles as a recipient of the California Board of Forestry 2002 Francis Raymond award.

I have had the pleasure to work with John in both the Forestry Institute for Teachers and Forest Conservation Days. John has taken up the banner of forestry education and takes every opportunity to share his knowledge and talents with the many diverse audiences that are engaged by the Northern California Society of American Foresters.

I am most familiar with his endeavors associated with the Forestry Institute for Teachers. John has participated in every Meadow Valley session since 1993 on a voluntary basis. Furthermore he has participated in all but 1 of the 25 FIT sessions offered among all three sites. John participates the entire week and he contributes greatly with his knowledge and experience. There have been occasions when FIT presenters were not able to participate as planned and John has stepped in and offered an informative program with little or no preparation. John takes education a step further by providing educational "interludes" that get to the heart of what FIT has become... an intense learning experience that integrates humor and fun. John has developed several "characters" (see accompanying photographs) that make learning enjoyable for the teachers. They actually learn while laughing.

In addition to his valuable contributions to FIT, John has been a key player in the Forest Conservation Days program. His Steam Donkey presentations to the many audiences engaged during FCD are always a highlight for participants. He does considerably more for FCD and I am certain that those more closely involved with the program have elaborated on his valuable contributions.

Most recently John has taken it upon himself to address issues related to the Alameda County Integrated Waste Management Board. John saw that misinformation and misperceptions were being disseminated by the ACIWMB and worked with the people involved to help them better understand relevant issues.

There should be no question that John has distinguished himself as a forestry educator. It is also noteworthy that he has done so as a volunteer.

Please call me if you have questions.

Sincerely,

Michael De Lasaux
Natural Resources Advisor

A.L. Schilling Elementary School

36901 Spruce Street

Newark, California 94560

November 19, 2001

Dear California State Board of Forestry and Fire Protection:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of nominating John Nicoles for the 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award. Mr. Nicoles is a man who has made increasing the awareness of California's forest resources and management issues part of his life. In my nine years as a teacher, I have had the honor of seeing Mr. Nicoles at work in several arenas. He wears many forestry hats for the public.

My first encounter with Mr. Nicoles was at the Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT) where he acted, at the time, as a resource for teachers participating in the week. During our many conversations, he was able to give me a perspective on forestry I did not have and had not heard before, although I considered myself pretty well educated and informed on environmental issues. He was always open to answering questions and providing needed information. Because of his willingness to touch upon the sometimes emotional topics of forestry (ie: cutting down trees), my own ideas about forestry issues were changed, and I was able to pass on these new insights to my students through-out the years. In the past five years, I have been fortunate to witness the evolution of Mr. Nicoles' role at the Quincy and Latieze FITs from informal behind-the-scenes resource person to an integral staff member who not only provides invaluable information on the consumer's role on the economic reality of certain forestry practices, but greatly contributes to the general ambiance of the week. FIT would not be the same without Mr. Nicoles.

As a public school teacher in a low income area, I have actively sought out and truly appreciate quality educational opportunities beyond my classroom; Forest Conservation Days in Saratoga is one of those quality opportunities where my students have learned about forest ecology and forestry practices while enjoying the outdoors. Mr. Nicoles, as the donkey punch, is always the highlight of the day because of his enthusiasm and subject knowledge. No matter what else happened during the day, my fifth grade classes have always remembered his demonstration of the steam donkey and its role in California forestry history.

Mr. Nicoles has also volunteered to "Talk About Trees" for my fifth grade classes at Schilling School several times. The amount of information he provides during his presentations is mind-boggling, but he does it in a way that each student walks out with an increased understanding of forest resources and forest management.

Although he is not recognized by the state of California as a credentialed teacher, Mr. Nicoles is someone who has dedicated his life to educating others about California forestry. Mr. Nicoles will be a worthy recipient of the 2002 Francis Raymond Award.

Sincerely,

Marianne Chang
Marianne Chang



Saint James School

1215 B Street
Davis, CA 95616
Tel: (530) 756-3946
Fax: (530) 753-9765

To Whom It May Concern:

This letter is written to support the nomination of John Nicoles for the Francis Raymond Award. I am a teacher who met John while attending the Forestry Institute for Teachers in Meadow Valley in August 2001. John volunteered his time and expertise that week to offer support and a knowledgeable and historical perspective on logging, forest practices, and the environment.

My first encounter with John was our initial walk into the woods where I learned to appreciate his wit and sarcasm, as well as his painfully tacky puns. John was very open to us about his work and interests and his spirit set the tone for a week of good-humored fun and learning. He was very patient in his instruction of using a dichotomous key to identify cones and after my fellow students and I struggled and were reaching frustration, John blurted out "Don't you see the little rats' asses?!" I'm sure that I will never forget how to identify the Doug Fir cone, and nor will my students!

John is a terrifically good sport. On every occasion, be it in the classroom, out in the woods, or by the campfire, he was ready with enlightening comments, helpful clarifications, and story upon story where he would go on and on and on. His distinctive laugh could be heard all day and was contagious. His relentless devotion and enthusiasm to share and teach is truly inspiring. As is his non-traditional approach; John is a closet thesbian, using his acting skills to add a theatrical flare to his instruction. When a grown man dresses in costume and makes a presentation complete with weird accents and puns, concepts won't soon be forgotten! His outgoing personality and willingness to stand out in these cases reminded me of how much students gain when their teacher is willing to be themselves and use all means to teach a concept. All week John wore his hard hat to remind us of safety and on our last night he starred in the lumberjack fashion show. I'll never forget his appearance as the one and only "Studman", there to teach us all we ever wanted to know about studs, the uses of wood products, and our consumer choices. All week Studman left messages and questions on the communal board, so his appearance at our last campfire was much anticipated. When he arrived dressed in Superman apparel, we were ready with googly-eyed glasses to ooh and ahh him. At our graduation ceremony, John expressed meaningful parting words disguised as the distinguished character, Doktor Professor Phelix Tferddreck.

When I think about my week at FIT, and now as I am teaching the unit I developed while there to my fifth graders, I am awed, impressed, and inspired by John Nicoles. He is a very deserving candidate for this award, as his dedication and enthusiasm for teaching forestry has had far-reaching positive implications for myself, my fellow peers, and all of the students whom we teach. Thank you.

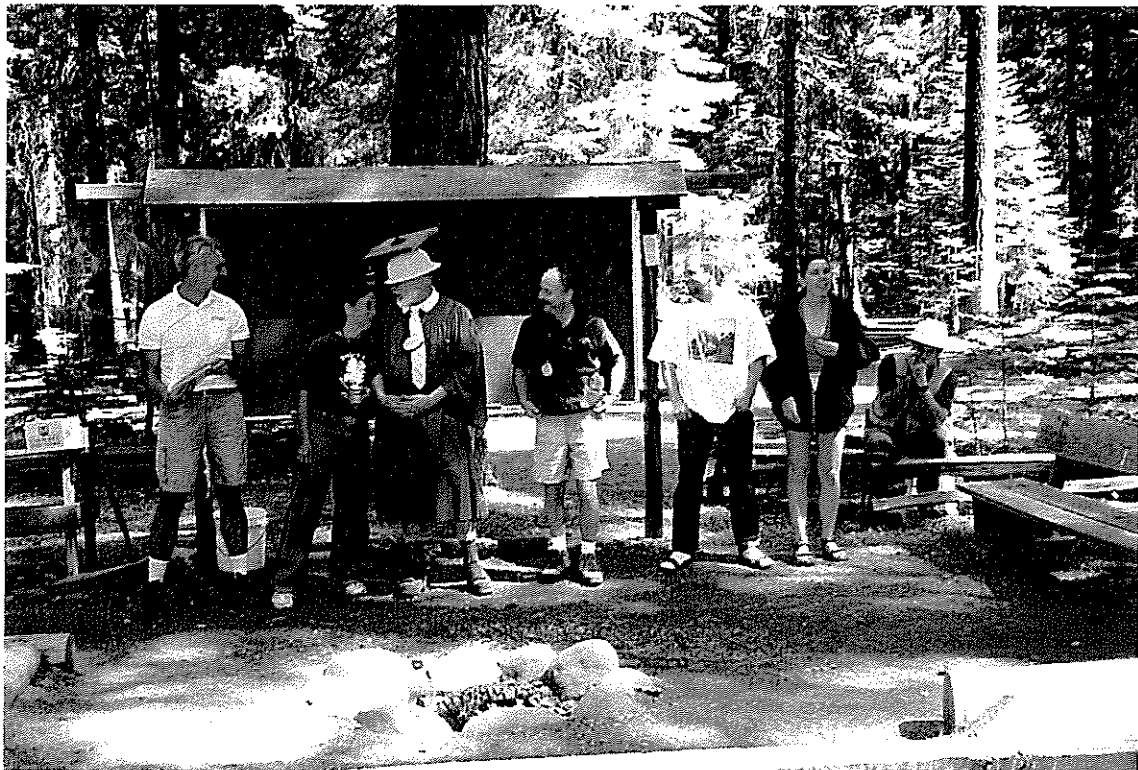
Sincerely,

Dante A.S. Meyer

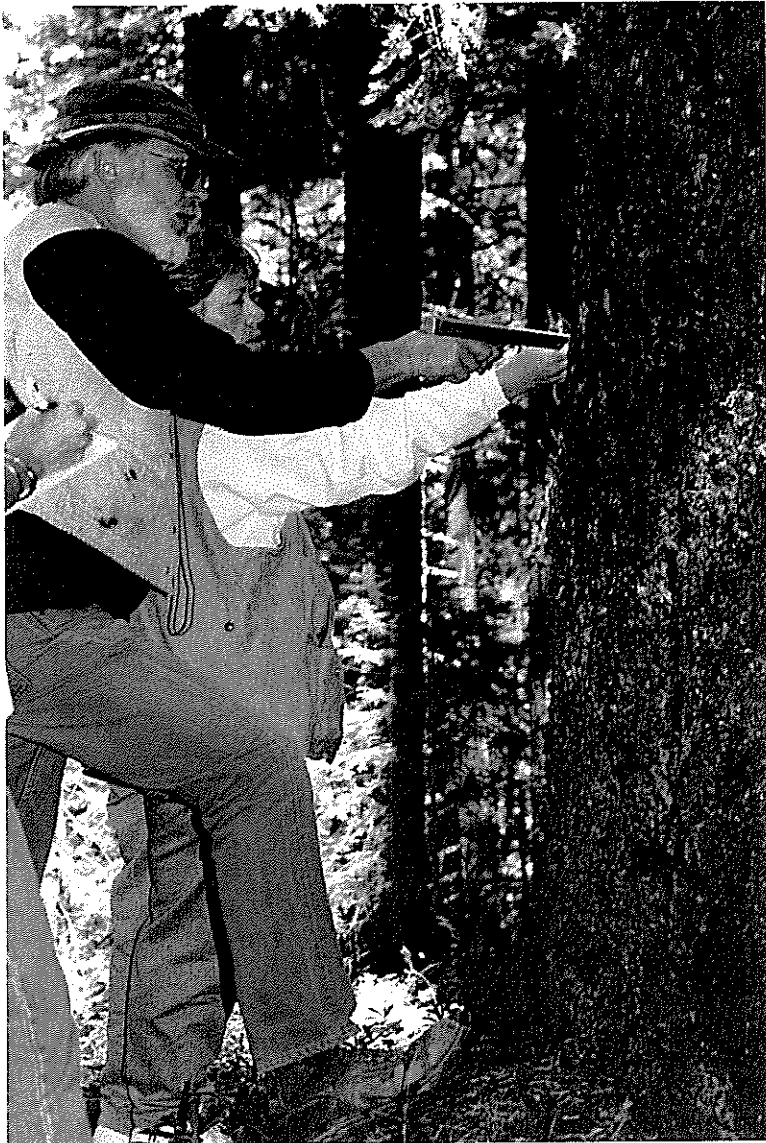
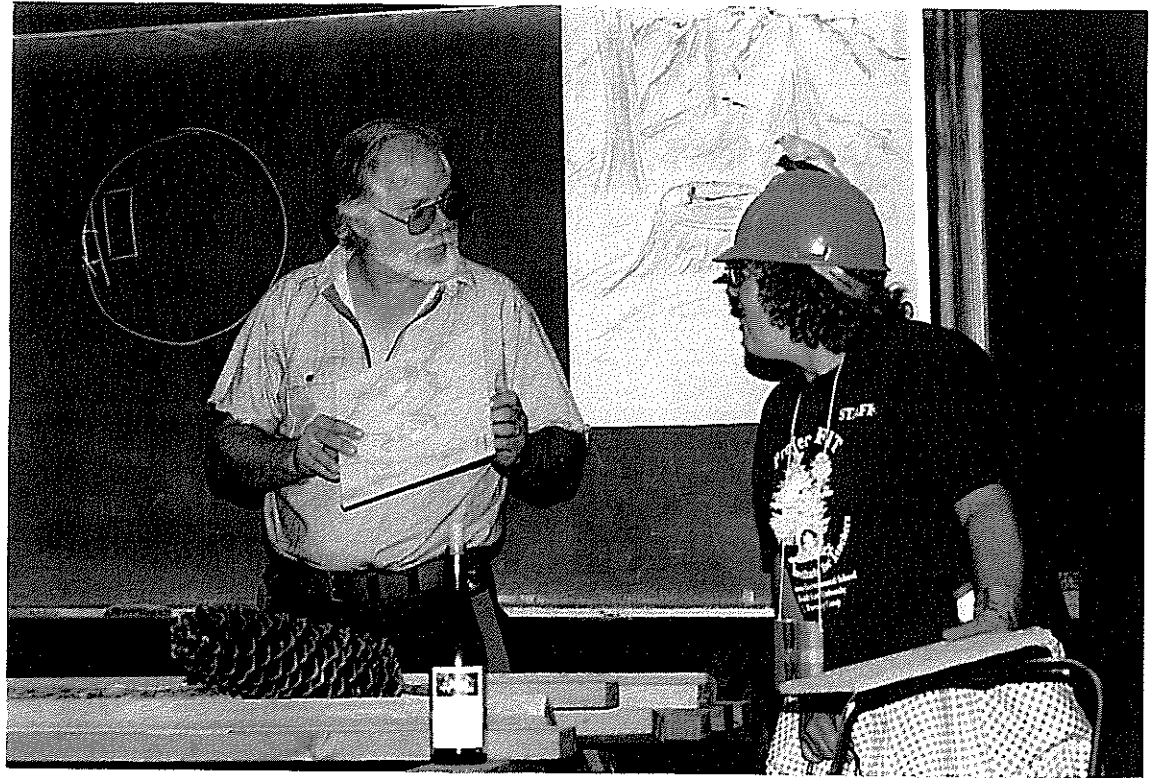
**FORESTRY INSTITUTE FOR TEACHERS
2001 MEADOW VALLEY**



JOHN NICOLES AS 'STUDMAN'



JOHN NICOLES AS 'DOKTOR PROFESSOR PHELIX TFERDDRECK'



JOHN NICOLES

**FORESTRY INSTITUTE
FOR TEACHERS**

1996 MEADOW VALLEY

Sierra Cascade Logging Conference

Letter from Bill Dennison

Loggers World Picture, SCLC picture

This annual event features biannual trips to the woods, interspersed with biannual fixed displays at fair grounds for local students where John continues to provides historical perspective and current environmental outlook, as he has since 1993.

From The Desk Of Bill Dennison

Secretary/Manager

Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, Inc.

Telephone: 530/258-2058

Fax: 530/258-1896

email: dennison@thegrid.net

P.O. Box 1536

Chester, CA 96020

To: California State Board of Forestry
Date: November 6, 2001
Subject: Recommendation for John T. Nicoles for 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award

It is with enthusiasm and appreciation for the achievements and activities of John Nicoles that I recommend him for this prestigious award.

John has been active in many volunteer activities during the annual Sierra-Cascade Logging Conferences. Because of his concern for good forest practices and the need to provide public education for sound forest management, John has taken it upon himself to volunteer to operate the donkey steam engine, whenever we sponsor it at one of our events. In addition, he is always active in our school children's education day.

John Nicoles past activities in Forestry Institute for Teachers (FIT), Talk About Trees, Forest Conservation Days and other volunteer projects exemplifies the type of person who should be recognized by his peers. I trust that the Board will agree and grant the 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award to John Nicoles.

Thank you for this consideration.

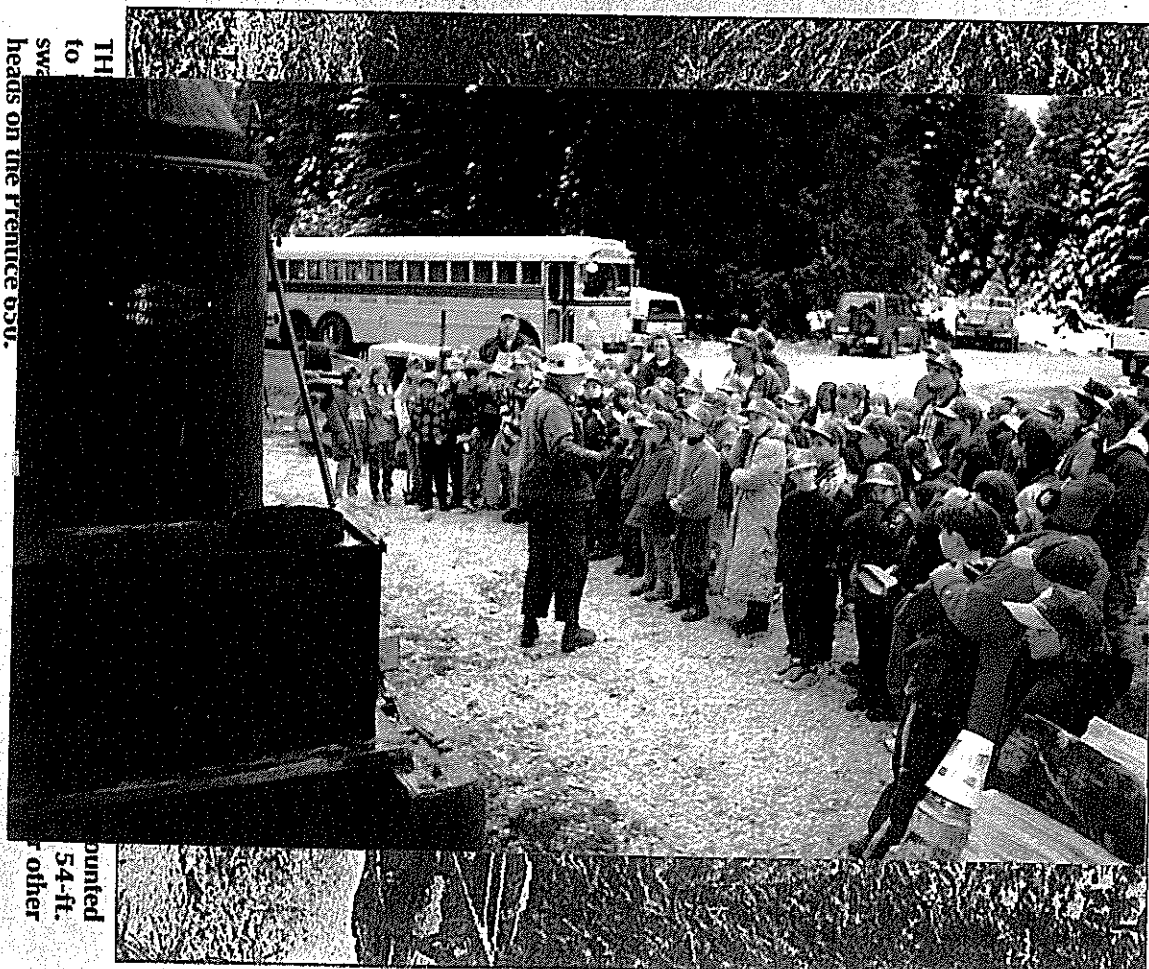
Sincerely,



Bill Dennison, Secretary/Mgr.
Sierra Cascade Logging Conference and
Plumas County Supervisor; District 3



STEAM POWER! And lots of it being used to haul this turn in. On the left is forester John Nichols (now retired) who was feeding the firebox of this 1891 donkey engine used during the Sierra Cascade Logging Conferences Live Show. Pulling in the line to the right are USFS Construction maintenance Super. Jerry Harmon, and SPI forester Jan Caster, both of whom were doing this for recreation.



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heads on the Prentice bus.

ounted
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other

UCB Alumni Activities

Letter from Tuck Coop

Letter from Gayle and Michael Blum

Letter from Carol Rice

The UC Alumni Camp recognizes the values of learning about the forest surroundings, and comes to appreciate forest management and the results of forest work activities, all instituted by John Nicoles over the last half-decade.



A California Alumni Association program since 1949

December 3, 2001

Board of Forestry
c/o Mr. Don Gasser
4071 Old Sonoma Road
Napa, Calif. 94559

To Whom It May Concern:

I am sending this letter in strong support of the nomination of Mr. John Nicoles for your 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award. I honestly cannot imagine anyone more deserving. Just under 2 years ago I became the Director of the Lair of the Golden Bear, a half century old, immensely popular family camp owned and operated by the California Alumni Association (U.C. Berkeley), situated in the Stanislaus National Forest near Pinecrest, California. Soon after assuming my new role, I was told by one of our long time Lair employees that there was a gentleman that I absolutely had to meet. Shortly thereafter I received a call from John and he came to my office and proceeded to convince me that the Lair needed to pay a whole lot closer attention to our forest than we ever had in the past. Over the course of the next 12-18 months John "introduced" me to the forest in a number of wonderful ways. No one has had a greater impact and made a greater impression on me relative to the forest than John Nicoles.

My first "up close and personal" experience with John came as a result of him volunteering to help me better understand the forest that surrounds our 115 acre camp. The experience started with a 3-hour drive from the Bay Area to the Lair. When we got into the car in Oakland I asked John a general question about some forest issue and he didn't stop talking about the forest until just about the time we pulled into Pinecrest 3 hours later. And it didn't stop there. Next thing I knew we were taking a hiking excursion around our camp, John filling me with more forest information than I could ever absorb. I have never met anyone who lives, breathes and loves the forest more than does John Nicoles.

Some years ago John initiated a program at the Lair that was designed to expose our Lair campers (nearly 10,000 per summer) to the wonders of the forest. He organized speakers

to address our campers at night time campfires, put together tours of local lumber operations and generally did everything he could to make our "city folk" camper community aware of the forest and the impact that it has on all of our lives. John is absolutely infectious and his enthusiasm and love for the forest has made him able to entice other volunteers to help him convey the forest story.

John has, on numerous occasions, participated with me in meetings with U.S. Forest Service personnel, commercial forest operators, members of the University of California at Berkeley Forest Science department, CAL alumni foresters and many, many others. He is the consummate volunteer. Never asking for something that would benefit him personally, he always asks for things that would somehow benefit the forest. John is like a broken record. "How can we further educate Lair campers about the forest?" "What can we do to get your young campers excited about our forest?" "What are you going to do to make your forest more healthy?" "What about fire danger? What are you doing to reduce the risk?" I wouldn't be a bit surprised if, when attempting to give blood, sap came out of his veins.

I genuinely admire, respect and appreciate John for all that he has done for me and particularly for all that he has done for our camp and our campers. John organized a volunteer group of forester cronies that come to the Lair in the spring and split cedar logs by hand thus providing us with cedar rail fencing that we could use to both beautify our camp and gently direct campers in a certain pedestrian traffic pattern so that his beloved forest wouldn't be abused. He is always quick to stand up and educate anyone who will listen about the beauty and magic of the forest. I absolutely cannot imagine anyone in the forestry community that could be more deserving of this prestigious award.

As you can no doubt tell, I am a huge John Nicoles fan. As a "city boy" whose only exposure to the forest was as a camper at the Lair, John has managed to single handedly turn me into a defender and protector of the forest. That's an exceptional gift he has given me and I will never forget it. What better attribute could any person possess than having the willingness, passion, energy and love to educate others. While I am not intimately familiar with your organization, by bestowing this award on John, I will know that the Francis H. Raymond Award stands for something extraordinarily special.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Tucker Coop". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping "C" at the end.

R. Tucker Coop
Director, Lair of the Golden Bear

Gayle & Michael Blum

June 7, 2001

The Board of Forestry

Dear Board of Forestry,

A friend of John Nicoles has informed us that he is being nominated for the 2002 Francis H. Raymond Award. We understand that this award is given to a person who has contributed to the management and increased awareness of California's forested resources. We want to tell you how much John has increased our awareness of California's forest.

For over 19 years we have been loyal campers at the University of California Alumni Camp, the Lair of the Golden Bear, in Pinecrest, California. We are acutely aware of what it takes to maintain our camp ground and at the same time to conserve and protect the surrounding forest. We appreciated the care and dedication the forestry men who survey the trees at our camp and make sure none are dead or dying so that there might be an accident. The managers of the camps are very strict regarding smoking and general rules pertaining to our responsibility for helping to maintain our "sacred" campgrounds.

Several years ago, Mr. John Nicoles organized the most wonderful field trip for the campers. He arranged for groups of us to go into the woods and see just how the Forest Service does their job. Forgive my lack of technical terms for everything we saw, but how fascinating it was to see these huge machines drive into a clearing, cut the tree, without endangering any other tree, strip it of its branches, and stack it in a neat pile ready for logging or whatever. He explained to us how the Forestry Service studies the forests to decide just where to cut and where not to cut. How not to disturb certain areas because it would be the natural habitat of some creature. He gave us such an education that even though it was several years ago, we all still remember this trip and how it instilled in all of us this tremendous appreciation for how diligent and conscientious the men and women of the Forest Service work.

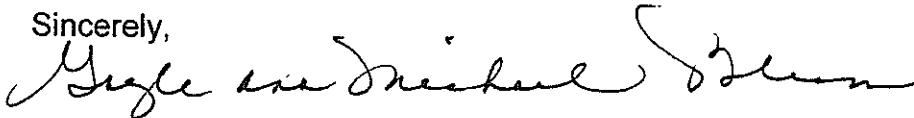
*41 Acacia Avenue
Belvedere, CA 94920*

The Board of Forestry
June 7, 2001
Page 2

It was a pleasure to see him again this past Memorial Day Holiday when a few families were up in Pincrest, at camp, getting it ready for the summer. There again was John, helping split rails for our fences and again, educating us on not only the technique of rail splitting but pointing out the reasons that certain trees died and how one has to cut them to save others. If the rail splitting hadn't been such hard work I think a lot of us would have stayed with John and his crew all day. But someone had to clean the toilets, kitchen and lodges. We all couldn't have the fun John was!

We were very honored to be asked to write this recommendation on behalf of Mr. John Nicoles. We can't imagine a more deserving individual. He certainly opened up the eyes of a lot of happy campers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gayle and Michael Blum". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed names.

Gayle & Michael Blum

WILDLAND RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

134 Journey's End Alamo, CA 94507 (925) 944-5282 Fax (925) 943-5395

November 30, 2001

Board of Forestry
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Sirs,

It is my pleasure to support the nomination of John Nicoles for the 2001 Francis Raymond Award. John has demonstrated throughout his career (both before and after retirement from the EBRPD) the many traits that qualify him for this honor: leadership, integrity, expertise, and dedication.

I have known John for over 20 years, having met him at meetings of the local Chapter of the Society of American Foresters. I would run into him at the many events in which he was participating, some of which I ended up participating in too, because of his encouragement. After his retirement from EBRPD, he spent more time supporting the many programs that teach teachers and students about forestry, as well as those programs and events such as the State Fair, that teach the general public about forestry.

John has volunteered his time, expertise, enthusiasm and leadership to several of the main forestry programs throughout the state. I know of no other individual who has made so many things happen. He recognizes or creates an opportunity or a good idea. He then turns it into reality. For example, he created and established the Bull-Whackers Jubilee, which celebrated the history of forestry in the Bay Area. He brought a steam donkey to the Forestry Conservation Camp (which is a great draw for the students) after finding the equipment, repairing it to a workable condition, and learning how to operate it. He single-handedly started a program of bringing Cal alumni to ongoing logging operations to explain forestry principles and practices. As part of this program, he compiled and presented countless times a slide show of historic logging practices in the area of the Cal Alumni camp, with an emphasis on how logging practices influenced the present forest condition of the site.

His communication skills also are used to bring diverse agencies into a discussion of forest product use, be it through the program of Talk about Trees, Forestry Institute for Teachers, or through staffing the display at the State Fair. The agencies might include elementary teachers, or might include the local Waste Management Authority.


He does not shy away from groups who do not yet share his opinions regarding forestry, but rather engages them in a dialogue and an educational process. For example, John noted that the Alameda Waste Authority ran an advertisement which was unflattering to foresters and logging. He wrote a letter to the Board, spoke before them at their meeting, and took them on a field trip to an ongoing logging site, all to educate them and broaden their perspective regarding forestry in California.

He has shown to be a leader, someone who enthuses others to participate. He is thoughtful of the role of forestry, continually thinking about the impacts of various policies on foresters. His communication skills provide many foresters a voice for these conclusions that would otherwise not be heard.

It's hard to reach John for days on end because he has given those days to the forestry profession – he spends more than one-half of his time volunteering to the established forestry programs in his biography, and more pondering how they could be better, or planning for the next time.

We are lucky to have a forester like John Nicoles, and our profession should honor the expertise, talents and leadership skills demonstrated by John.

Sincerely,



Carol L. Rice

Talk About Trees

Brownell Academy Description

Letter from Brownell Academy Principal

While not strictly volunteer, John shows his willingness to take on tough problems and come into polarized situations.

BROWNELL ACADEMY

During the mid 1990's, the Willamette National Forest in Oregon developed the Clark Timber Sale, which included some old-growth Douglas-fir and western hemlock. The sale was purchased by Jim Halstrom of Zip-O-og Mills in Eugene. A group of local activists, calling themselves Red Cloud Thunder, occupied the trees and opened a web site in an effort to get the sale cancelled. In May 1999, Halstrom was the recipient of a packet of letters written by students in three "Communications" (elementary English) classes taught by Loya Jackson at the Brownell Academy of Humanities and Fine Arts in Gilroy, CA. In general, the letters Halstrom's abandonment of the sale. The letters were variously marginally literate, offensive, and scientifically inaccurate. In many cases they were decorated with crayon art. Through Talk About Trees connections in Oregon and California, John Nicoles was approached with the request to address the students.

Nicoles contacted Mrs. Jackson, and received permission to talk to her three classes on June 3, 1999. Because this was a Communications (not a science), he developed a presentation around the theme of "Credibility in Communications." Two major thrusts were employed: How do you establish credibility of an information source? And: What were the credibility errors of the students' letters? Addressing the first point, Nicoles provided verifiable identification to establish his competence to speak on the subject generally. He referenced telephone conversations with both Halstrom and the Forest Service employees who had prepared the sale. The unspoken implication was that the students had no such background on their Internet information source. Addressing the second point, Nicoles described the timber sale process to illustrate that their letters had been sent to the wrong party; the Forest Service, and not Halstrom, was responsible for the decision to remove the trees of concern. In addition, Nicoles remarked on the need to be scientifically correct in order to be credible. A number of their letters had claimed that old trees should not be cut because they were important oxygen producers. Using three X-section samples, Nicoles made the point that younger trees were better oxygen producers than old ones; that if oxygen production were the primary decision-making criterion, cutting the old trees would actually be beneficial. The objective being to illustrate that obvious scientific error undermined the credibility of their communications.

During the presentations, Mrs. Jackson made a number of interjections, at one time observing that "We all know that the Forest Service sells trees for a dollar apiece." On another occasion, she placed an untitled diagram on an overhead projector, illustrating forestlands in the continental U.S. at various dates. The slide actually purports to illustrate the extent of original, or never cut, forest lands. Nicoles responded to these interruptions as they arose, describing the relationship between tree location and its value, and pointing out that much of the land seemingly unforested in recent times (e.g., Maine and West Virginia) is actually heavily forested today.

Less than a week following his presentations, Nicoles received a large envelope from Brownell Academy containing 57 student letters which, like those sent to Halstrom, were variously marginally literate, offensive, and inaccurate. To those with cogent comments and a home return address, Nicoles sent personal responses. Before taking any other action, Nicoles shared and discussed the letters with the education cadre of the Forestry Institute for Teachers (Nancy Jones, Dennis Mitchell, and Brian Brown). Their advice was that the letters and their derivation should be brought to the attention of the school principal, without, however, any expectation of direct action. Accordingly, Nicoles made an appointment and returned to meet with Principal Suzanne Damm on July 7. Ms. Damm was provided copies of the 57 letters sent to Nicoles, as well as some of those sent to Halstrom, and of some pertinent e-mail correspondence emanating from Red Cloud Thunder. The interview did not involve the issues of legitimate citizen dissent nor appropriate forest practices, but rather around the competence and suitability of the student correspondence. Ms. Damm expressed concern for the general lack of a formal business letter format, poor spelling and punctuation, tone of the communication, and the fact that the students were clearly being led in the nature of their content.

The ultimate outcome of Nicoles' efforts is not known. However Nicoles received the attached letter of appreciation from Ms. Damm.

**BROWNELL ACADEMY
OF
HUMANITIES AND FINE ARTS**

July 25, 1999



John Nicoles
732 Santa Ray Ave.
Oakland, CA 94610

Dear Mr. Nicoles:

I want to express my sincere thanks for your concern and your willingness to come to Gilroy and meet with me. I also want to apologize for your treatment by the staff and students at Brownell.

The more I think about our conversation and read the materials you brought the more issues I see that need to be addressed. I will be addressing with the office staff the fact that you were not asked to sign in upon your arrival. I will be addressing correspondence issues with the entire staff. The most important being appropriateness of language, attitude, punctuation, grammar, and spelling. We will also be putting some new procedures into place as a result of our discussion. These procedures will be related to guest speakers and outgoing correspondence. I have also decided to make some adjustments in teaching assignments.

Thank you for your professional attitude and your candor. You have made a positive difference for the students at Brownell Academy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Suzanne Damm".

Suzanne Damm
Principal

Alameda County Waste Management Authority

Narrative from SAF Newsletter

Letter from Alameda County Waste Management Authority

Showing his willingness to set the record straight, John single-handedly reverses misconceptions and prejudices. This ongoing concern will soon yield a trip by foresters to recycling facilities through John Nicoles' continuing efforts.

NEWSLETTER

(Action on Offensive Ad, continued from page 1)

ORNIA SOCIETY

PETER
CAL POLY STATE UN

SacBee Woods Compl from an

By Deborah Wal
Communic

On June 6th, represen
Executive Committe
for *Sacramento Bee*.
Tom Philp. The inte
show Mr. Philp fores
Tahoe National Fore
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Former Communicat
Lydick laid the grou
field tour with Mr. P

(SacBee Woods T

and 4) that saving a tree through recy-
cling would be beneficial.

Nicoles contacted the sponsoring
agency, the Alameda County Waste
Management Authority, and expressed
his concerns to Mr. Bruce Goddard, the
agency's Public Affairs Manager and
creator of the ad. Nicoles also alerted a
number of forestry/logging related or-
ganizations and SAF Chair Bill Keye.
Keye wrote a letter on behalf of NorCal,
and Nicoles delivered the letter along
with a synopsis at the ACWMA Board
meeting of May 23. NorCal asked that
the ads be removed promptly, and, be-
cause the campaign was due to end
within a few days anyway, the Board
agreed.

Sadly, but understandably, there was not
a ground swell of objection from Ala-
meda County. Goddard may not be in
tune with the realities of forest manage-
ment, but he is in tune with his audience;
prejudice, when practiced against the
appropriate target, is perfectly acceptable
in Alameda County. Both Keye's letter
and Nicoles' comments referred to this.
ACWMA seems less malicious than na-
tive and has expressed a willingness to
work with forestry professionals to im-
prove their advertising program. To this
end, NorCal offered Goddard the oppor-
tunity to attend FIT. Nicoles is currently
arranging a one-day fieldtrip for God-
dard to see forestry in action.

Will our efforts bear fruit? As with
other educational exercises, one never
knows for sure. ACWMA focuses on
recycling as a means to reduce the
waste flow to the landfill, and it applies
the "save-a-tree" philosophy to reduce
the amount of cellulose fiber in that

flow. The misconceptions
inherent in the ad, how-
ever, end up limiting for-
est management options to
the detriment of our whole
society. If SAF, in coop-
eration with others in Cali-
fornia's forestry commu-
nity, can change the per-
ception of ACWMA, it
could have a major impact
in both waste and forest

Tahoe ◇ SOUTHERN SAN JOAQUIN ◇ WYNTON

SOLD ◇ SIERRA COLLEGE ◇ UC BERKELEY ◇ REEDLEY COLLEGE

San Joaquin Appeal to Tahoe Forest Admendment

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Chapter Chair

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The Chapter
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(continued on page 5)

NorCal Takes Action on Offensive Advertisement

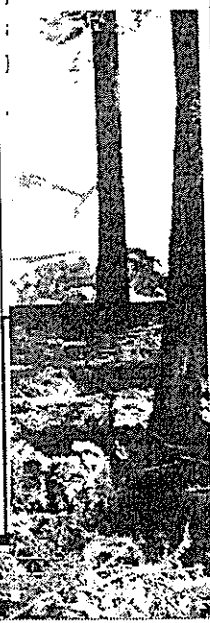
In early May NorCal member John
Nicoles observed a troubling advertise-
ment posted in several BART stations.
The ad read: "Buy recycled paper, or
the tree gets it!" The ad pictured two
loggers (one with a tooth blacked out)
holding an ax and a chainsaw against a
backdrop of a fallen tree and large
clearcuts. The ad was offensive in that
it demeaned loggers and implied: 1)
that large clearcuts are typical in Cali-
fornia, 2) that western forests are heav-
ily harvested for paper production, 3)
that logging is an unregulated melee,

(Action on Offensive Ad, continued on page 5)

Inside this issue...

Events & Opportunities	2-3
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NorCal SAF In Action	5
News & Information	6-7
ExCom Updates	8-9
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NorCal Office Update	15
Chapter Updates	16-17

NorCal SAF brings SacBee reporter
Tom Philp to the woods on June 6.
Pictured viewing a feller buncher on
the Tahoe National Forest are Julie
Lydick (USFS), Bill Keye (NorCal
SAF), Philp, and logger Scott Bigelow.



Alameda County Waste Management Authority, Continued

By John Nicoles

In the Summer, 2001 edition of this newsletter, we reported on actions taken in response to an offensive advertisement posted in BART stations by the Alameda County Waste Management Authority (ACWMA). At that time, a field trip for interested ACWMA staff was being planned.

The field trip was conducted on August 14, and seven staff members, one consultant, one intern and one staffer's son attended. The itinerary was developed by Stacey Martin of Sierra Resource Management and included visits to a mechanical plantation thinning being conducted by her firm, the SPI small-log mill at Chinese Camp, and the Ultrapower biomass plant, also at Chinese Camp. Forestry professionals involved with the tour included Steve Wiard of California Cedar, Mike Albrecht of Sierra Resource Management and Chris Trott of Ultrapower, as well as Stacey Martin and the writer.

The ACWMA visitors were able to compare unburned, untreated forest with a forty-year-old post-fire plantation in both thinned and unthinned conditions. They observed mechanical

(Alameda County, continued on page 14)

(Alameda County, continued from page 5)

thinning in progress, and visited a completed (including prescribed burn) site. An in-the-woods bag lunch was underwritten by the California Forestry Association. At the SPI mill, they watched logs from the thinning site processed into lumber, with absolutely no material wasted. At the biomass plant they were treated to a discussion of the economic and environmental considerations of converting cellulose waste to electricity.

All parties rated the tour as highly enjoyable and informative. Conversation on the return trip was lively. While marketing problems were discussed, the consensus was that the primary problem with the original ad was the political message that cutting trees is bad.

Among the comments made were: "We have a different view of harvesting trees after today's tour," and "We need to make the public see that it is OK to cut trees even as we promote recycling."

These comments represent the very positive impact of the tour. However, a positive result from the ACWMA staff does not represent the end of SAF's interaction with the agency. The next step is to schedule a reciprocal tour and discussion of waste management practices as part of an ongoing effort to develop an integrated approach to our various wood fiber problems, from the fire hazard in the forest to final disposition as compost, fuel for electrical generation, or landfill.

There are no dates set as this is written, but a meeting of some nature will likely be scheduled before year's end. SAF members and others interested in participating in this discussion should contact the author at (510) 834-8953, jni-coles@jps.net, or 732 Santa Ray Avenue, Oakland, CA 94610.



Alameda County Waste Management Authority
Alameda County Source Reduction and Recycling Board
www.stopwaste.org

August 16, 2001

John Nicoles
Registered Professional Forester
732 Santa Ray Avenue
Oakland, CA 94610

Dear John:

On behalf of my colleagues, I want to thank you very much for putting together our "*Walk in the Woods*" tour on August 14th. I know I speak for everyone on the trip when I say we had an interesting, useful and entertaining day.

If the term "tree-hugger" were used properly in our society, you would surely be Exhibit A. Your knowledge and general love of the forest are a real asset to your industry. And I know, from first hand experience, of your conscientious and diligent stewardship in telling the forest story.

We deeply appreciate your taking the time to set up the tour. By any standard, the day was an overwhelming success. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Bruce Goddard
Public Affairs Director

Thanks, John

Appendix

FCD Certificate of Merit

FCD student letters

FCD description from BLM website

Nicoles Biography

Certificate of Appreciation

The Northern California
Society of American Foresters
Thanks

for participating in Forest Conservation Days

MARCH 19-30, 2001 SARATOGA, CALIFORNIA

Don Dukleth
Don Dukleth
FCD Coordinator

Diane Savin-Dukleth
Diane Savin-Dukleth
FCD Coordinator

**Erica King
R.H.M.S
Mrs.Rutledge
3/31/99**

Dear members of the Society of American Foresters,

I really enjoyed this Field Trip. I learned so many things. I would like to go many more times but my schedule is really tight right now.

My favorite thing that I did there was visiting the Donkey machine I would like to thank the guy that was helping (John or Don). I really enjoyed that station. It was not only fun but I learned about the technology of the olden days, which I am very fond of.

The most interesting thing I did was learning about the salmon. They have the most interesting life cycle I was amazed.

I learned about how the Donkey machine worked and how to tell how old a tree is. I learned about the trees especially the Redwood and the Douglas Fur. I learned about the soil of the forest. I would like to thank Mr. Eric for helping us although our group was really noisy. I also learned that cutting down trees was okay.

**Sincerely,
Erica King**

March 11, 11

Dear John, Sean and Stew
When you came to our class
room it meant a lot. If you did
not come I would of been
very disappointed. I learned a lot
I learned how to see how
old a tree is with out
chopping it down. I also leared
how to make a pencil. Now
I know how much fun it
is to be a forest protector.
I may want to be a forest
protector when I grow up.
When you came and taught us
I learned a lot and now if one
of my friends comes and wants
to learned about the forest I
could sit down and talk for two
hours telling them about the
forest because you taught me so
much.

From Elizabeth

Michael Cole
Rolling Hills Middle
School
Mrs. Antleap's 5th grade
class

3/29/99

DEAR MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY
OF AMERICAN FORESTERS.

I'd like to tell you how thankful
I AM for getting to go to
Sanborn Park. I'm glad you gave
up your time to show us so many
interesting things. It WAS FUN AND
I would like to go AGAIN.

MY FAVORITE PART WAS THE STEAM
DONKEY.

MY FAVORITE DISPLAY WAS THE
SALMON LIFE CYCLE.

I LEARNED WHAT PISON OAK LOOKED
LIKE.

Sincerely
Michael Cole

Markus Strickland
Rolling hills middle
5 grade Ms Rutledge

Dear members of society of
American foresters

I liked The stump where we
got to walk in and out. I am glad you
helped us.

Thank you for letting us
play tug of war.

The most interesting thing
thing was the donkey machine
and the log cutter. I learned
that salamanders are dieing
fast. It is not good to polute
water. And wood can be hollow.

Sincerely, Markus

Roger Mai

Rolling Hills Middle School

Mrs. Rutledge 5th Grade

March 29, 1999

Dear Members of the Society of Foresters,

I would like to thank you for allowing us to go on this wonderful trip. This is the best field trip I ever went on. It was the most knowledgeable field trip also. I really appreciate how you took all the time to set everything up too. What I enjoyed the best was going on the hike or trail.

What I think was the best about the Forest Conservation Days was going on the hike. During that hike I learned a lot about trees and a lot of other things about the forest. To me the display that was the most interesting was the steam donkey and how it pulled trees out of the forest. Things that I learned were interesting. Such as, paper is made by fibers in wood, 54 pencils can be made out of a rectangular prism, the steam donkey can pull a couple tons, also it pulled out trees from the forest and destroyed the forest floor by doing that, and salmons live to about 4-6 years.

Sincerely,

Roger Mai

Dear Foresters Conservation of America,

I'm glad I went on the field trip to Sandborn Park. Thank you for taking time out of your day to show us around. I hope next year I come hear and I hope to see new things. I think that you could have shown us more trees and shown us less plants. My favorite thing at sandborn was the steam engine donkey. My favorite station was the pencil guy.

Scott Rodenhurst
218 prime St
Los Gatos
CA 95032

Sincerely

Scott Rodenhurst

Kathleen Thai
Rolling Hills Middle School
Ms. Woods 5th grade
3/31/99

Dear Members of the Society of American Foresters,

I would like to thank you
everything you taught me about
the trees and how poison oak
would look like with or without
the leaves.

The part I liked best was
the hiking part and the part
when we went into the big tree.

The most interesting display
was the steam donkey.

I learned that a male
deer rubs its horn on a tree
and I saw the marks on the tree.

Sincerely,
Kathleen Thai

Seina Saraj
Rolling Hills Middle School
Ms. Woods 5th grad
3/31/99

Dear members of the Society of
American Foresters,

Thank you for showing us
around. What I liked best was
the steam donkey. I think
how to make paper was
the most interesting. I learned
that pollution can change
the life cycle.

Sincerely, Seina Saraj

Ryan Short
Rolling Hills Middle
School 5th grade
3/31/94

Dear Members of the Society of American Foresters,
Thank you for showing me around Canborn Park it was
very interesting.

I liked the hiking and the steam donkey. I liked
the tree with the hole you could run up and down.

The steam donkey was the most interesting and
the last with all the bugs
I learned that ants have their own language

Sincerely, Ryan Short



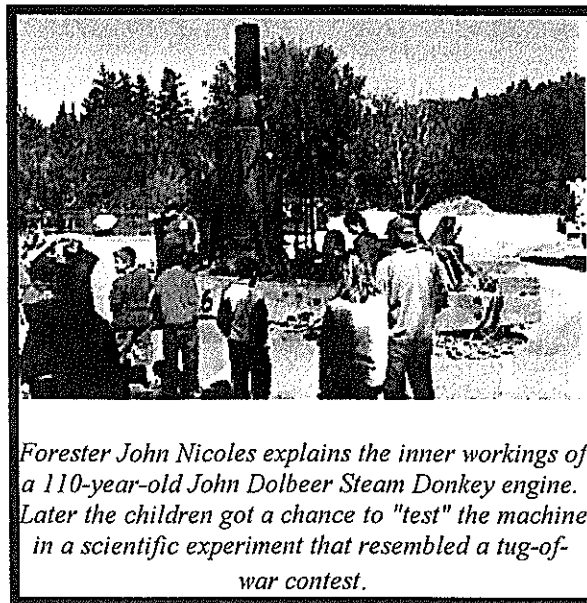
**Bureau of Land Management
Environmental Education
Homepage
Feature of the Month**



"Steam Donkey?" *What in the World is a "Steam Donkey?"**

(*answer is at end of story!)

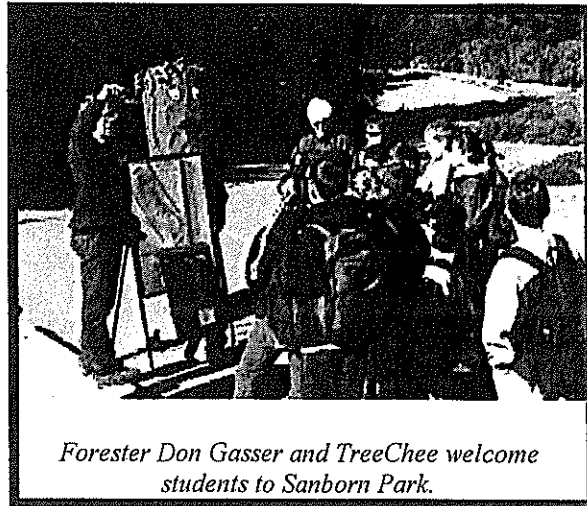
Every day of the two-week-long "Forest Conservation Days 2000," the most frequently asked question was just that: "What is a Steam Donkey?"



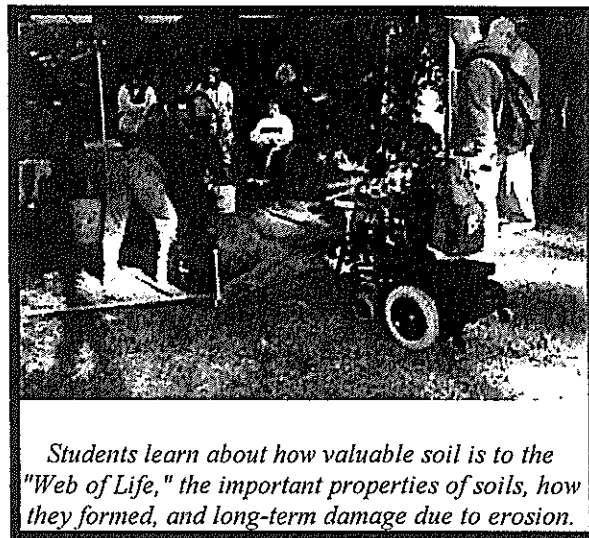
Forester John Nicoles explains the inner workings of a 110-year-old John Dolbeer Steam Donkey engine. Later the children got a chance to "test" the machine in a scientific experiment that resembled a tug-of-war contest.

Over the course of two weeks each March, lucky students from the San Jose, California, area are transported to Santa Clara County's Sanborn Park for Forest Conservation Days, an annual event hosted by the Society of American Foresters (SAF) since 1992. Parents, teachers, community volunteers, and partner groups - including the Bureau of Land Management, USDA Forest Service, University of California (UC)/Berkeley, Americorps, and private organizations such as the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation and Sierra Pacific Industries - assist the SAF in producing an engaging, educational, highly labor-intensive, and very rewarding event. Students from local school districts participate in Forest Conservation Days Monday through Friday, and Boy and Girl Scouts and the general public are encouraged to visit during the intervening weekends.

This year, as in the past, fifth-graders disembarked from their school bus and, after having been told of all the interesting things to do and see at Forest Conservation Days, lost no time in asking about the Steam Donkey. Trail Guides - foresters and other natural resource professionals who had volunteered for the duration - explained that it was a steam-powered machine that pulled logs, just as a donkey would do.



Students were officially welcomed to the park by Forester Don Gasser, and "TreeChee," a tree-costumed character. The docent accompanying TreeChee explained that TreeChee had been "topped" by a Pacific Gas & Electric employee because the tree had been growing under a powerline. Students were encouraged to always plant trees "in the right place," to enable the trees to grow freely and avoid interference with power distribution lines.



The children were then whisked away to various parts of Sanborn Park to learn about the "Web of Life." The "Web" lessons gave the students an opportunity to learn how the earth's plants and animals are interconnected. Afterwards, the kids took a half-mile-long hike through a redwood forest, and visited exhibits on wildlife, fisheries, forest products (pencils, paper, and engineered products from the Forest Products Lab at UC/Berkeley), the Steam Donkey, fire prevention, and archaeology. They also visited the park's Youth Science Institute. There, they were offered hands-on experience in the areas of Native American culture, insects, geology, and wildlife. Trail Guides stressed "Web" connections at each stop.

On the trail hike, students learned about the relationships of sun, soil, air and water to the lives of plants and animals. There were opportunities to study the effects of wildlife species on each other and on the plants that grow in the park. Other stops offered lessons on how trees grow, methods for

determining the age of a tree, and the ways in which plants interact and compete for nutrients. Fire ecology was also discussed, with an emphasis on how Native Americans - specifically, the Ohlone Indians - once used fire to create better deer habitat. Nearby lay the bones of a Columbian black-tailed deer, which had been killed by a carnivore, probably a coyote.



Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts explore a giant redwood stump as parents watch.



Over 600 Girl and Boy Scouts attended Forest Conservation Days 2000.

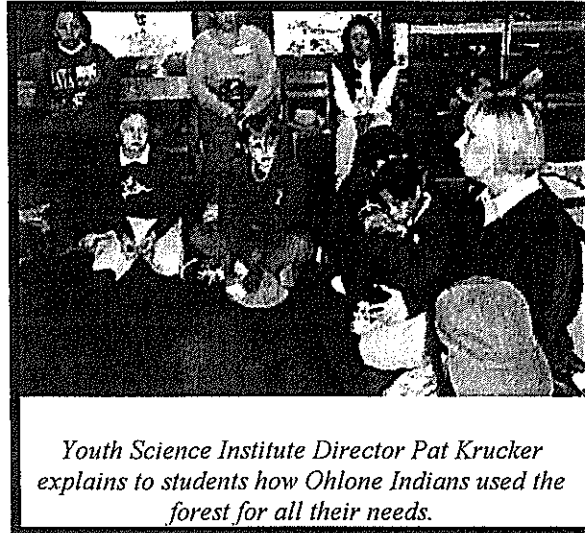
For students and Trail Guides alike, a favorite and welcome break along the trail was a fifteen- foot-wide, rotten redwood stump. The children got a chance to do "practical research" by exploring the stump and trying to identify what had caused the tree's death. They soon discovered that it had been burned many times over the years, both as a result of natural lightning-caused fires and also because of prescribed fires by Native Americans. The tree was cut down over 130 years ago for lumber to help build the city of San Francisco. Since redwood trees can sprout from the root system of the parent tree, there are now about six large trees growing around the stump. An interesting fact the children learned was that nearly every tree in Sanborn Park was cut down over 130 years ago. Now, however, this is a beautiful redwood forest. Parents and teachers in particular are always amazed when they realize they are standing in a former clearcut, albeit some 130 years later!



Students Pose for a photo at the Ghost Rock.

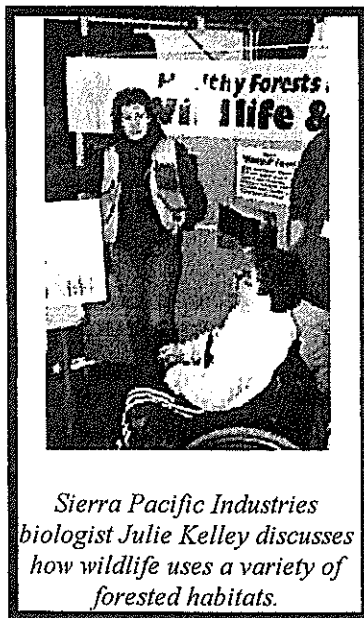
At one stop on the trail, there are several interesting indicators of geologic activity; in fact, the trail is actually constructed along the San Andreas Fault line. The children were amazed to learn that they were standing on the edge between two giant pieces of the earth's crust - the Pacific Plate and the North American Plate - that extended for over four thousand miles in opposite directions! Geologists

have estimated that in Sanborn Park, the earth moved over sixteen feet along the San Andreas fault in the 1906 San Francisco earthquake, when the two plates moved under the influence of extreme pressure. Nearby evidence of that earthquake includes trees that were tilted by the movement; large amounts of clay produced from the grinding of rocks along the fault line; and a sharp turn in the nearby stream.

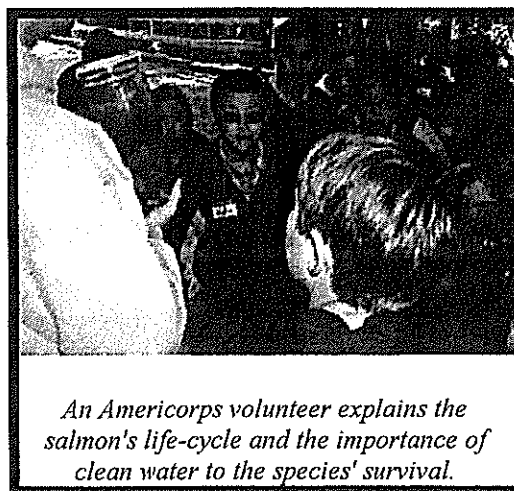


Youth Science Institute Director Pat Krucker explains to students how Ohlone Indians used the forest for all their needs.

After the trail hike, students had an opportunity to experience how the Native Americans who once inhabited the Park - the Ohlone tribe - had lived their daily lives. At the park's Youth Sciences Institute, the children were taught that the Ohlone made their homes from pieces of redwood and hunted and gathered food in the local area. There were also exhibits on logging history, geology, and archaeology. The students' favorites, of course, were the live insects, amphibians, and reptiles that provided them a close-up look at the living world around them.



Sierra Pacific Industries biologist Julie Kelley discusses how wildlife uses a variety of forested habitats.



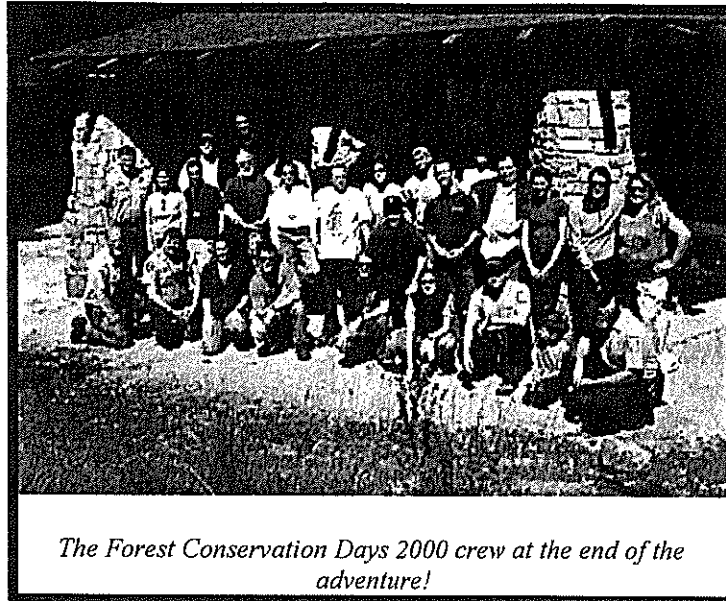
An Americorps volunteer explains the salmon's life-cycle and the importance of clean water to the species' survival.



A wood scientist from UC/Berkely demonstrates how paper is made.

It takes over 350 volunteer person days to organize Forest Conservation Days. Each year, the event reaches about 3,600 students and approximately 1,500 parents, teachers, Boy and Girl Scouts, and

members of the general public. One of the primary goals of the volunteer foresters and other resource professionals who devote so much time and effort to this event is to encourage young people to study and pursue careers in the natural resource disciplines.



***Answer to title question:** The Steam Donkey is a steam-powered machine, invented by John Dolbeer in 1883, that was once used to pull logs from forests. The Donkey on display at Forest Conservation Days 2000 was loaned by the USDA Forest Service Hume Lake Ranger District to the Turtle Bay Museum in Redding, California, and borrowed for the event. The machine is believed to be approximately 110 years old. (P.S.: The pulling capacity of the Steam Donkey on display was about 100 tons . . . as far as the "tug-of-war" was concerned, the kids never really had a chance!)

For further information on the Bureau of Land Management's participation in Forest Conservation Days, please contact BLM Forester John Stewart at e-mail John_C_Stewart@blm.gov or telephone (202) 452-7761.

For more information on the Society of American Foresters (SAF), please visit the SAF website at <http://www.safnet.org>.

If you are interested in volunteering for, or participating in, next year's Forest Conservation Days, please visit the Northern California SAF website at <http://www.humboldt.edu/~csy1/NorCalSAF/Consedu.html>.



JOHN T. NICOLES

FORESTRY ACHIEVEMENTS & ACTIVITIES

1. At East Bay Regional Park District:

- a. Supervised construction of fuel breaks in Eucalyptus following freeze damage, summer 1973; follow-up work, 1974. Reference: Richard C. Trudeau
- b. Pioneered forest management in urban & urban/wildland interface situations, 1973-1992. References:
- c. Primary author, Coordinator for preparation of a vegetation management policy for EBRPD, 1974/5. Reference:
- d. Drafted manual for road grading practices for EBRPD, 19..
- e. Established Bull Whackers Jubilee (later Redwood Forest Festival), Historical Logging and Forestry Exhibition, 1984-1986. In 1986, initiated concept of bussing school children to the event as a school field trip; later model for FCD. Assisted with subsequent Festivals, 1988-1990. References: John & Anne Heisenbottle, Don Gasser, Tad Mason, Janet Cobb (now Calif Oak Foundation, then Public Affairs Dir, EBRPD) 510-763-0282
- f. Secured State Historical Landmark status for Blossom Rock Navigation Trees. First Landmark awarded to EBRPD; only Landmark awarded for a tree (?...I'm not sure about this)

2. As CAF officer:

- a. Took CAF Executive Committee meetings off campus to establish CAF independence.
- b. Met with CNR Dean and faculty regarding CNR reorganization; provided constructive (?) criticism.
- c. Wrote to and met with Berkeley Campus administrators to emphasize importance of Forestry as a University program.
- d. Addressed campus administration and State Board of Forestry on the issue of dissolving the Forestry Library.
- e. Contributed comments in selection of new CNR dean; met with selected dean to express CAF concerns.
- f. Interacted with University State-wide administration on the VP, Agriculture's proposal to restructure agricultural programs, including Forestry, through a reallocation of Federal funding. Reference: Henery Vaux, Jr.
- g. Reported to CAF members at summer picnic and SAF convention in Anchorage on the state of the Forestry program at Berkeley.
- h. Initiated interpretive program at CAA summer camp (Lair of the Bear) at Pinecrest (see below).

None of the above activities was, in itself, definitive, nor had a definitive outcome. However, they established a new level of authority for CAF; defined that CAF was a player. For the first time, CAF reached beyond the established, limited lines of

communication to the College, Campus and State levels to demonstrate that it was a force in University decisions. These actions laid the foundation for subsequent CAF leadership to influence the allocation of faculty positions within CNR, and to participate in the selection of individuals to fill those positions. They heightened the awareness of University administration and non-forestry alumni of the importance of the Forestry program; they were instrumental in the securing of Forestry's niche at the University.

3. As SAF Officer:

- a. Instituted meetings of SAF leadership with Secretary of Resources and Chief, Dept of Forestry.
- b. Completed review and adoption of revised bylaws.
- c. Completed contractual agreement for newsletter production.
- d. Took active role in state agricultural burning regulation revision.
- e. Developed and carried policy proposals on (1) population & consumption impacts on resource management and (2) forestry accreditation procedures to national SAF.
- f. Initiated Habitat for Humanity project at 2000 State Fair. Although SAF was not ultimately a major contributor to the construction of 2 homes on the fairgrounds, SAF (and Nicoles personally) contributed significant volunteer time to interpretive services during the fair. References: Donn Zea, CFPC & Archie Milligan, HfH.

4. Talk About Trees:

Served as a facilitator, giving classroom presentations, 1993 to present. Served as special agent in difficult circumstances, notably the Brownell Academy case. References: Jack & Kat Bramhall, Cynthia Lonergan (Martinez Jr. High, 925-313-0414), Diane Coventry (Hidden Valley Elem, Martinez, 925-228-9530)

5. Volunteer Activities

- a. Donkey Engine/Forest Center: Started volunteering at the California Forest Center in 1984, and served a few days most years since. Identified the donkey engine on display at that time as a beneficial attention-getting device, learned how to operate it, and operated at the fair over Labor Day weekend several years running. Promoted using the donkey as an educational device outside the fair grounds, and arranged for its display and/or operation at Redwood Forest Festival, Sierra-Cascade Logging Conference, Plumas County Fair, and FCD. Coordinated a major reconstruction of the boiler in 1996. Participated in arranging transfer of engine from the Forest Center to Turtle Bay Museum in 1996. Drafted preliminary operating manual for engine for Turtle Bay and contributed to ongoing editing, etc, 1996 to present. Tutored a number of new operators to permit increased frequency of operation.
As an SAF officer, precipitated the idea of an integrated display combining a Habitat for Humanity home-build with the Forest Center activities. This project was executed at the 2000 fair. The fair staff, CFPC & HfH were the primary contributors to this project, which resulted in over 25,000 people touring the Habitat house and connecting the home construction to the forestry message.

Assisted with Sac County fair and other Forest Center activities on a number of occasions. In 1999, provided an on-the-spot 40-minute forestry presentation to 100 youngsters who had arrived too early for a tour of The Farm. References: Ed Ehlers, Fred Landenberger, Ron Adams, Sherm Finch, and Anne Schmidt.

b. Forest Conservation Days

Participated in every FCD, 1992 to Present (17 weeks, less 2 days, through 2000). Operated donkey engine for duration of event, 1993 to present. Addressed nearly every FCD attendee over an 8-year period (30,000 students and adults, +/-). Initiated concept of visiting classrooms of scheduled classes when inclement weather prevented having students on site. References: Gary Nakamura, Tad Mason, Don Gasser, Bill Howe, Jay Francis.

c. Forestry Institute for Teachers.

Participated in every Fit session (22 weeklong sessions, 1993-2000). Served as fill-in instructor on the subjects of fire and hydrology as needed. Provided special sessions on map reading and compass use. Identified need for, and created consumer-end segment of program (2X4 exhibit and "Studman" presentation). Led recreational field trips to fire tower and industrial archeology site. Served as reference source for harvesting and milling technology.

d. CAF/Lair project

Project conceived in 1994, during tenure as CAF president. The purpose of the project was to capture the attention and interest of Lair campers (U.C. Alumni predominately), and make them aware of the presence and condition of the Forestry program at Berkeley. The program consisted of an historically rooted slide show, focusing on RR harvesting in and around the Lair site, followed by a half-day field trip to a harvesting project. The intent was to provide the program to each weekly camp session (10 per season), but 7 sessions/ season was typical, due to limited availability of presenters. The first program was delivered in 1995, and the programs were continued through 1998. The slide show/field trip program was discontinued in 1999 due to Lair leadership constraints, and may be re-instituted in 2001.

Involvement with the Lair resulted in the observation that there were resource management needs within the camp itself. There was a general trampling which resulted in changes in run off and associated erosion; there were large, old-growth trees, residual from logging in the late 1920's, which represent potential hazards under recreational use; and there were substantially unused areas where the development of small trees and underbrush represented a serious fire hazard.

Efforts at planting trees in denuded areas by Lair campers had failed due to lack of soil and failure to protect the seedlings from foot traffic. Attending one of the CAF field trips, the Lair director recognized that mechanical harvesting practices might be applicable on the Lair site. However, over the years a communication barrier had developed between the Lair and its land lord, the Forest Service, and there was reluctance to open discussions on possible management actions.

In 1996, a dead incense cedar was identified as a hazard, and felled. Nicoles prevailed upon the Lair director to reserve a number of large logs for splitting into rails; the rails could then be used to create casual exclosures that would reduce trampling and allow vegetation recovery. The idea was viewed with some

skepticism, but permitted. In 1997, Nicoles arranged two parties of CAF members to split the rails. The rails were put in place for the 1998 camp season, and their value was recognized. The removal of additional hazard trees has resulted in a third rail-splitting effort, at the request of Lair staff, with more to come. The interpretive message is that trees can become detriments in the recreational forest, and when they do, they can be converted to useful products that aid the recovery of the recreational environment.

Also in 1997, Nicoles arranged for CAF member and hazard tree expert Ken Meyer to visit the Lair and consult with the Director on hazard trees generally. At the end of the 1999 camping season, the Lair director retired, and a new director was selected. This personnel change resulted in a new relationship with the Forest Service, and an acknowledgement of the need to rehabilitate both the facilities and the forests of the Lair. Nicoles has served as a voluntary consultant on issues of forest management and as a contact to other CAF members and UC faculty who can provide special expertise in the restoration effort. This ongoing process brings expert credibility to the Lair staff in their dealings with the Forest Service, and continues to build the supportive relationship between CAF and the larger California Alumni Association. If field trips resume, and as resource management work within the Lair progresses, numerous opportunities for communication with Lair campers (predominately urban dwellers) on Forestry issues will be created.

As the Lair project unfolds, there are new openings for coordination among CAA, CAF, UC, and both the operating and research arms of the Forest Service. Under the Conservation Framework, the FS is driven to more of a recreation focus, but has little hard data on how to sustainably manage natural resources under prolonged heavy recreational use. The convergence of an established and willing permittee, the FS and university faculty and alumni amounts to a significant opportunity to identify new procedures and practices.

e. 1990 SAF Convention

Served as chair of the "tours" committee, coordinating both general interest and special interest "working group" tours. Nicoles provided 1/2 day of on-site content for one working group when miscommunication resulted in loss of the planned program. Overall effort as committee chair rated as "arguably the most difficult task of the convention" by SAF convention coordinator Richard Reed.

6. Consulting:

Served as Forestry consultant on a project to develop a resource management plan for Upper Stevens Creek Park, Santa Clara County. Brought a considerable degree of on-the-ground management experience ("reality") to the plan. Plan received a "Merit Award" in 1993 from ASLA.

7. Teaching:

Certified to teach "Forestry, Natural Resources and Related Technologies; Public Services and Administration" in the California Community College system.